



Patents

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Steele, et al.

Serial No.: 09/933,567

Filed: August 20, 2001

For: **BRANDING AND REVENUE SHARING MODELS
FOR FACILITATING STORAGE, MANAGEMENT
AND DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER INFORMATION**

Art Unit: 2161

Examiner: Unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above referenced application, kindly enter the following amendments and consider the appended remarks.

AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0001] The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/226,117 filed August 18, 2000, which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein, and is further a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being delivered to the Commissioner for Patents via Technology Center 2100/Before Final at Facsimile No. 703-746-7239, on the date shown below.

Michael S. Pavento

Reg. No. 42,985

Date: December 20, 2001

AO 663800.1

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09/933,567

Serial No. 09/933,567
December 20, 2001
Page 2 of 6

09/923,285 (Attorney Docket 17331-0006) filed on August 6, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/223,232, filed August 4, 2000. --

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0038] In one embodiment as described herein, a single sign-on mechanism may be provided to allow a consumer to "sign-on" (provide username and password, etc.) for authentication to access an information account 110 at only a first website. The authentication status may then "follow" the consumer as the consumer accesses subsequent websites. At such subsequent websites, a consumer who has activated the single sign-on mechanism will not be asked to re-authenticate himself. For example, the host server 108 may maintain an authentication table (not shown) that records the consumer authentication information, the sign-on time and a browser identifier. When the consumer accesses a subsequent website that requires sign-on for accessing the information account 110, the client-side application 105 may communicate the browser identifier to the host server 108. The host server 108 may use the browser identifier to look up the consumer authentication information and previous sign-on time in the authentication table. The previous sign-on time may be compared to the current time in order to determine whether a time-out interval has expired. If the time-out interval has not expired, the host server 108 may acknowledge that the consumer is authenticated.--

Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0058] FIG. 3 provides an abstract illustration of an information account 110 in accordance with other exemplary embodiments of the present invention. In the embodiment shown, an information account 110 is structured as multiple discrete XML aggregates 302a-c. The discrete XML aggregates 302a-c may comprise one primary "profile" record 302a and one or more information product records 302b-c. The profile record 302a may include a general

Serial No. 09/933,567
December 20, 2001
Page 3 of 6

profile of information elements 304 associated with the consumer. Information product records 302b-c contain consumer information elements that, for example, are specific to a particular product or service offered by a vendor, or that are important to vendors with similar consumer information needs. Aggregation of data elements according to information products allows quick and efficient retrieval of specific consumer information from the information account 110 through a request-response system. —

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing preliminary amendments, the application includes claims 1-72. No claims have been amended by way of the present preliminary amendment.

Paragraph [0001] is amended so as to correct typographical errors in the original claim of priority. Paragraph [0038] is also amended to correct a typographical errors. No new matter has been added by such amendments.

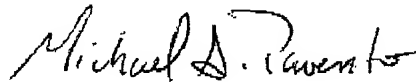
Paragraph [0058] is amended in order to ensure that certain language used in U.S. Provisional Application No. 06/223,232 is carried through to the present non-provisional application. The original language is found on page 3 of U.S. Provisional Application No. 06/233,232, in the last sentence of the second full paragraph. Applicants believe that the relevant subject matter described in the present non-provisional application, as filed, is consistent with that of the provisional patent application. However, for clarity, Applicants have reintroduced the original language to the present non-provisional application. As the present non-provisional application, as filed, incorporated U.S. Provisional Application No. 06/223,232 by reference as if set forth fully therein, Applicants submit that the amendment to paragraph [0058] does not introduce any new matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the present preliminary amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Serial No. 09/933,567
December 20, 2001
Page 4 of 6

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required under 37 CFR §1.16 and 37 CFR §1.17 and all required extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-5029.

Respectfully submitted



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Serial No. 09/933,567
December 20, 2001
Page 5 of 6

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the specification:

Paragraph [0001] has been rewritten as follows:

[0001] The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application [Serial No. 60/223,232 filed August 4, 2000, and of Application] Serial No. 60/226,117 filed August 18, 2000, which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein, and is further a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Application [Ser.] Serial No. 09/923,285 (Attorney Docket 17331-0006) filed on August [8]6, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/223,232, filed August 4, 2000, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein].

Paragraph [0038] has been rewritten as follows:

[0038] In one embodiment as described herein, a single sign-on mechanism may be provided to allow a consumer to "sign-on" (provide username and password, etc.) for authentication to access an information account 110 at only a first website. The authentication status may then "follow" the consumer as the consumer accesses subsequent websites. At such subsequent websites, a consumer who has activated the single sign-on mechanism will not be asked to re-authenticate himself. For example, the host server 108 may maintain an authentication table (not shown) that records the consumer authentication information, the sign-on time and a browser identifier. When the consumer accesses a subsequent website that requires sign-on for accessing the information account 110, the client-side application 105 may communicate the browser identifier to the host server 108. The host server 108 may use the browser identifier to look up the consumer authentication information and previous sign-on time in the authentication table. The previous sign-on time may be compared to the current time in

Serial No. 09/933,567

December 20, 2001

Page 6 of 6

order to determine whether a time-out interval has expired. If the time-out interval has not expired, the host server 108 may acknowledge that the consumer is authenticated.

Paragraph [0058] has been rewritten as follows:

[0058] FIG. 3 provides an abstract illustration of an information account 110 in accordance with other exemplary embodiments. In the embodiment shown, an information account 110 is structured as multiple discrete XML aggregates 302a-c. The discrete XML aggregates 302a-c may comprise one primary "profile" record 302a and one or more information product records 302b-c. The profile record 302a may include a general profile of information elements 304 associated with the consumer. Information product records 302b-c contain consumer information elements that, for example, are specific to a particular product or service offered by a vendor, or that are important to vendors with similar consumer information needs. Aggregation of data elements according to information products allows quick and efficient retrieval of specific consumer information from the information account 110 through a request-response system.